MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762

and

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

RELEASE OF HALIFAX MAIDENCANE

Halifax maidencane, Panicum hemitomon, Schult., an aquatic grass developed by the Soil Conservation Service, will be released for erosion control May 1, 1974.

This grass is a direct vegetative increase of the accession MS-2138 collected by Karl E. Graetz, from a native stand located near U. S. Highway #1, south of Halifax, North Carolina.

Halifax maidencane is an aquatic or semi-aquatic grass. It hae culms that grow to about 42 inches in height. It produces many sterile shoots with overlapping sheaths that grow up to 36 inches tall. The leaf blades range from ¼ to ½ inches wide and from 4 to 12 inches long. The panicle ranges from 6 to 12 inches long. The panicle branches are erect, producing a spike-type seed head. None of the seed produced by this accession has been found to be viable. This grass spreads by many vigrous rhizomes. It will spread 24 to 30 inches per growing season. The stems, sterile shoots, leaves and rhizomes form a dense vegetative mat.

Halifax maidencane is adapted to Southern Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Halifax maidencane is recommended for planting on the shoreline of small lakes, ponds, irrigation reservoirs and on stream channel banks and canal banks for shoreline erosion control.

Maidencane was collected from seven different sites in the Southeastern United States. These locations were Halifax, North Carolina; Oberlin, Louisiana; Loundes County, Alabama; Shallatte, North Carolina; Manchester, Tennessee; Gilchrist County, Florida and Hillar, Florida.

These accessions were established on the SCS Coffeeville Plant Materials Center for comparison as to their growth spread and cold tolerance. The accession Halifax was selected for its cold tolerance, its rapid spread and vigrous growth. The accessions of maidencane were evaluated for six years. The testing of Halifax maidencane continued for another four years.

It has been evaluated for its ability to control shoreline erosion on small lakes, ponds and irrigation reservoirs. It has also been evaluated for the control of erosion on the toe slopes of stream channels.

This grass was compared in the shoreline plantings with limpopograss, Echinochloa holubii; Giant cutgrass, [redacted] miliaceum; and was found to be superior to all of these grasses in its ability to withstand erosion.

In the channel toe slope erosion trials, it was compared with Nilegrass, Acroceras macrum; limpopograss, Echinochloa holubii, and was again was found to be superior for erosion control.

In addition to the evaluation of this grass on the SCS Coffeeville Plant Materials Center, it was established and evaluated in field plantings in Arkansas and Mississippi. This grass is climatically adapted to Southern Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. It is suggested for release in these states.

Halifax maidencane is increased vegetatively from rhizomes. The Coffeeville Plant Materials Center will maintain a breeders block of this grass from which increase stock will be distributed.

Each cooperating agency may make news releases on or after the release date of May 1, 1974.

Acting

4/30/74
DATE

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

4-26-74
DATE

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